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Angus Thermer
Office of Public Information
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia
Pres. of F. & L. Forum

Dear Mr. Thermer:

We would like to invite you to attend a major conference on the Central Intelligence Agency and covert actions. The conference, sponsored by the Center for National Security Studies, a project of the Fund for Peace, will be held in Washington, D.C. on September 12 and 13, 1974, and will meet in a congressional hearing room, under the aegis of Senators Edward Brooke and Philip Hart.

Morton Halperin, Richard Barnet, Herbert Scoville, Victor Marchetti and Richard Falk are among the writers who will debate the pressing issues posed by American involvement in covert actions at home and abroad.

A list of papers and authors is enclosed. Each paper will be summarised at the conference, presenting issues for discussion by the participants. Panel participants include members of the press, the legal community, current and former government officials and academics.

The conference will meet in a morning, afternoon and evening session on September 12; and a morning and afternoon session on September 13. Dinner on Thursday night will be provided for the participants.

We are most anxious to have your attendance at the conference. We are able to reimburse you for any expenses incurred in attending the conference (travel, room and board).

We believe the conference is addressed to an issue of major importance. Various Watergate revelations have produced public discussion of and concern about the covert activities and capabilities of the Central Intelligence Agency. The conference will provide a forum for an informal analysis of covert activities. The participants include persons with a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives.

*told him thanks
but no thanks.*

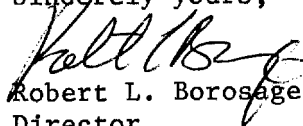
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We hope that you will be able to participate in the conference. I will call you later in the week to answer any questions and provide further information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Borosage
Director

Center for National Security Studies
1930 Biltmore St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

RB/ns

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CONFERENCE ON THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND COVERT ACTIONS

Members of the press, the legal community, current and former government officials and academics will attend a two-day conference on covert actions in a Congressional hearing room in Washington, D.C., on September 12 and 13, 1974. The conference is sponsored by the Center for National Security Studies, a project of the Fund for Peace, and will take place on the Hill under the aegis of Senators Edward Brooke and Philip Hart.

Morton Halperin, Richard Barnet, Herbert Scoville, David Wise and Victor Marchetti will be among the writers who will debate issues such as the purposes of covert actions abroad, the scope of intelligence activities, and government decision-making and covert activities.

Eleven panels will consider various aspects of such issues. Each panel will be headed by an author giving a brief synopsis of a paper prepared for the conference. Two discussants will then respond to the presentation. The questions will then be opened for public discussion by invited guests and observers.

The list of the papers and authors is as follows:

The Scope and Structure of the Intelligence Community
by Victor Marchetti and John Marks

Victor Marchetti is a former staff officer of the Office of the Director of the CIA; John Marks is a former State Department official who served as staff assistant to the director of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Their paper will review the scope and structure of the entire intelligence community, including a survey of the activities performed by various agencies, and a discussion of the budget of each agency and what it is devoted to.

Covert Operations Abroad: An Overview
by David Wise

David Wise is an author who has written extensively on the CIA and covert operations. His paper will discuss the legal and institutional foundations of covert operations, and then review the types of foreign operations the Agency has sponsored over the years.

The CIA in Laos: A Case Study of Covert War-Making
by Fred Branfman

Fred Branfman is the director of the Indochina Resource Center.

His paper will focus on the Agency activities in Laos, discussing the implications of the Agency's covert war-making capability.

Surreptitious Entry: The CIA's Covert Operations in the United States
by Thomas Ross

Thomas Ross is a reporter with the Chicago Sun-Times. His paper will consider the Agency's activities within the United States, their legal restrictions, and their implications.

National Security Comes Home: The CIA and Watergate
by Walter Pincus

Walter Pincus is an associate editor of the New Republic. His articles on Watergate have been among the most detailed and informative of all commentators. He will write on the participation of the Agency, and ex-Agency operatives, in Watergate, and discuss the implications of covert operations on domestic freedom.

Covert Operations and International Law
by Richard Falk

Richard Falk is a professor of international law at Princeton University. He will analyse covert operations in relation to international standards of conduct which this nation has pledged to follow.

Covert Operations and the Constitution
by Robert Borosage

Robert Borosage is the director of the Center for National Security Studies. His paper will discuss the constitutional violations inherent in a secret operational institution. He will consider questions of secrecy, budgetary expenditures, and legal charter. He will suggest that a republican constitution imposes some fundamental limits and guidelines on government, limits which are violated by the CIA.

A Review of Selected Successes
by Roger Morris

Roger Morris is a former member of the National Security Staff under Henry Kissinger. His paper will select three generally accepted successes of the CIA. He will ask what purposes and interests were served by our intervention, and which interests were harmed.

A Reassessment of Intelligence Technology
by Herbert Scoville

Herbert Scoville is a former deputy director of the CIA and a former assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. His paper will consider the major technological programs, assess their degree of provocation, their importance in intelligence gathering, and their importance to decision makers.

Covert Operations and Decision-Making
by Morton Halperin

Morton Halperin has served on the National Security Staff and in the Department of Defense, and presently serves as an in-house consultant to the Center for National Security Studies. His paper will analyse the effects of covert operations on intelligence assessments, on executive decision-making, and on congressional oversight of foreign policy.

The Unnecessary Intelligence
by Richard Barnet

Richard Barnet is co-director of the Institute for Policy Studies. He will discuss the extent to which the intelligence we gather provides either unnecessary or undesirable knowledge. His paper will consider the degree to which constant surveillance magnifies the importance of otherwise insignificant events in the eyes of decision-makers.

Two panelists will be invited as discussants for each paper. Additionally, other participants in the conference will be invited, to insure a variety of views and perspectives in the conference discussion.